

## EXPLANATION OF PLATE X.

- Fig. 1. *Cisticola lugubris marginata*. ♂. Malakal, U.N., 31/v./09.  
 2. " " " ♀. Fashoda, U.N., 9/i./07.

These two figures show the great seasonal change in the coloration and in the length of the tail in this species.

- Fig. 3. *Cisticola natalensis malzacii*. ♂. Wandi, L.E. (Emin coll.),  
 7/ix./85.  
 4. " " " ♂. Chak Chak, B.G., 8/iii./07.

The seasonal plumage-change is as marked in this subspecies as in *C. l. marginata*.

- Fig. 5. *Cisticola erythrops erythrops*. ♂. Ruwenzori, Uganda, 28/iv./06.  
 6. " " *roseires*. ♂. Roseires, Sen., 19/iv./11.  
 7. " *terrestris eximia*. ♂. Bahr el Zeraf, U.N., 4/ii./14.

These figures illustrate the characters of the new subspecies.

- Fig. 8. *Cisticola ruficeps scotoptera*. ♀. Mongalla, summer/09.  
 9. " " " ○. Sennar, vii./09. [Type of  
*C. floweri* Hartert.]  
 10. " " " ♀. Fashoda, 9/i./07.  
 11. " " " ♂. Roseires, 21/iv./11.

These figures show the successive plumage-changes in this species. Fig. 8 represents the full summer-dress; fig. 9 is the same bird in late summer-dress, the tail has moulted and the new winter tail is not quite fully-grown, the head is also freshly moulted but not the back. Fig. 10 is the full winter-dress with the striped back and the long tail now fully grown; and fig. 11 represents the bird in worn winter-plumage just before assuming the summer-dress.

## XXXIII.—Obituary.

## WILLIAM VINCENT LEGGE.

As was briefly announced in the last number of 'The Ibis,' Col. W. V. Legge, Col.M.B.O.U., died on 25 March last at Cullenswood House, St. Mary's, his home in Tasmania, in his seventy-eighth year.

Born also at Cullenswood in 1840, Legge was the son of Robert Vincent Legge. He was brought to England when a

child, and was educated at Bath and also in France and Germany. He passed into the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in 1860, and two years later obtained a commission in the Royal Artillery.

He served for several years in England, and in 1867 was stationed at Melbourne in Australia, which was then garrisoned with Imperial troops. From 1868 to 1877 he was in Ceylon, and it was during his service in this island that most of his ornithological work was done. He made large collections of birds and travelled extensively throughout the island, and also reorganized the Colombo Museum. He returned to England in 1877, and in 1883 he retired from the Imperial service with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, having been appointed by the Tasmanian Government Commandant of the local military forces of that island. He held this post from 1883 to 1890 and again from 1898 to 1902, when he finally retired and settled on his ancestral estate.

The earliest of Legge's publications in ornithology which we have found is a letter to 'The Ibis' of 1866 remarking on the abundance of nesting Redshanks in south-east Essex, and is dated from Shoeburyness, where he was no doubt quartered at that time. From 1874 to 1878 he communicated several papers and notices to 'The Ibis' on Ceylonese birds and their distribution especially in the hilly region in the south of the island, and this culminated in the publication of the 'Birds of Ceylon,' a large quarto volume of 1238 pages with 34 plates illustrating the birds peculiar to the island and a map showing the faunal districts. This work, which was issued in three parts between 1878 and 1880, was well received and much praised at the time of its issue, and was reckoned one of the most complete and successful monographs of a limited avifauna. It is still the standard work on Ceylon birds and has not been superseded. For the preparation of this work Col. Legge amassed a fine collection of Ceylonese birds, a large proportion of which he presented to the National Museum at South Kensington.

After his return to Tasmania he sent a short paper to

'The Ibis' (1888, p. 93) on the *Acanthizæ* of Tasmania, and in the 'Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania' for 1886 he published his "Systematic List of Tasmanian Birds." A revised edition of this list was printed in the same journal for the years 1900-1901.

In 1904 he was President of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, and delivered an address at Dunedin in New Zealand on "The zoogeographical relations of the Ornis of the various subregions of the Australian region, with the geographical distribution of the principal genera therein"—a valuable and thoughtful paper. He also wrote on geological and anthropological subjects.

Col. Legge was elected a Colonial Member of the B. O. U. in 1903. He was also member of the Royal Society of Tasmania, and of the Royal Australian Ornithological Union, of which he was an original member and the first President.

He was twice married, and is survived by two sons, both now in Australia.

#### ROBERT OLIVER CUNNINGHAM.

From the 'Morning Post' of 27 July last we learn of the death of Dr. R. O. Cunningham, who, though never a member of the Union, made some contributions to the pages of 'The Ibis' in its earlier years.

Born about 1840, Dr. Cunningham obtained his medical education at Edinburgh, at the University of which he gained his M.D. degree in 1864. In 1866 he was appointed Naturalist to H.M. Surveying Ship 'Nassau,' commissioned to explore and map out the Straits of Magellan and the adjoining waters of the Patagonian coasts; and on his return in 1869 he published a charming volume containing an account of his experiences, 'Notes on the Natural History of the Straits of Magellan and the West Coast of Patagonia.'

After his return from South America he was for some years Professor of Natural History and Geology at Queen's College, Belfast, but of late he lived in retirement at Paignton in Devonshire, where he died.

His first paper in 'The Ibis' (1866, p. 1) is a learned

history of the Solan Goose from the earliest times, and is supplemented by his own observations on the habits of the bird on the Bass Rock.

During his voyage to Magellan Straits he sent three interesting letters to 'The Ibis' for 1868-69, and the birds which he collected and sent home were named and commented on by P. L. Sclater and Osbert Salvin in the same volumes. His collections were ultimately deposited in the Museum at Cambridge.

After his return to England he wrote two papers on the anatomy of certain Kingfishers and on the osteology of *Rhea americana* and *Rhea darwini* for the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1870 and 1871, and a more important memoir "On some points in the Anatomy of the Steamer Duck (*Micropterus cinereus*)" in the Transactions of the same Society (vol. vii. 1871, pp. 493-501, pls. Iviii.-lxii.).

#### L. BERESFORD MOURITZ.

We have only recently learnt that Mr. L. B. Mouritz, who enlisted as a private in the 2nd Australian Light Horse at the commencement of the war, and who was reported missing during the Gallipoli fighting, was subsequently declared killed in action on 14 May, 1915, by a Court of Enquiry which sat to determine his fate.

Mr. Mouritz, about whom we regret to say we have very little information, was an Australian and a mining engineer by profession. His business took him to South Africa, where he resided for some time at Bulawayo. He wrote an important paper for 'The Ibis' (1915, pp. 185-216 and 534-571) on the ornithology of the Matopo district near Bulawayo, and another on his observations in Katanga, Belgian Congo, while on a prospecting expedition in that country under Anglo-Belgian auspices (Ibis, 1914, pp. 26-38), and these papers show that he was very familiar with African birds and an excellent observer.

He was elected a member of the Union in 1912, and is the 15th member that the Union has lost through the war.